

PROTECTING YOUR FAMILY FROM CARBON MONOXIDE

Simple steps can save a life!



PREVENT POISONING

- ◆ **Make sure you have working carbon monoxide detectors.** Install carbon monoxide detectors in your home near every sleeping area and change the batteries every six months. Detectors can be purchased at most hardware stores for \$20-\$30.
- ◆ **Have your furnace or wood-burning stove inspected annually.** Hire a professional to make sure it works and vents properly outside the home.
- ◆ **Never run a gasoline or propane heater or a grill (gas or charcoal) inside your home.** Any heating system that burns fuel produces carbon monoxide. Use a battery-powered detector where you have fuel-burning devices but no electric outlets, such as in tents, ice shanties, tree stands, cabins, trailers, and boats with enclosed cabins. Never use a gas stove or oven to heat your home.
- ◆ **Never run a car in an enclosed space.** Even with a door or window open, carbon monoxide levels can still build up to an unsafe level.
- ◆ **Always run generators outside.** Never use a generator in the home or garage, or right next to windows, vents, or doors. Keep generators at least 20 feet from your home, camper, tent, etc., with exhaust hoses pointing away from people and structures.

WHAT IS CARBON MONOXIDE?

Carbon monoxide is known as the “silent killer” because it is odorless, tasteless and colorless.

Carbon monoxide is a gas that is made when fuels—like gas, kerosene, propane or wood—are burned.

KNOW THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF POISONING

- ◆ Symptoms of overexposure to carbon monoxide include headaches, fatigue, dizziness, shortness of breath, nausea, and confusion.
- ◆ At high levels, carbon monoxide can cause death within minutes.

TAKE ACTION

- ◆ Go to fresh air immediately if you see the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning or if your alarm sounds.
- ◆ Call 911, and stay in the fresh air until the building has been declared safe.



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